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5 February 1965

DCI BRIEFING
FOR THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

VENEZUELA

- I. In Venezuela, the paramilitary FALN has continued sporadic terrorist activities in widely scattered areas of the country since the revival of violence in mid-September.
 - A. It has recently been increasing its efforts in rural areas at the expense of urban commitments.
 - B. Government counterguerrilla operations are now in operation in an increasing number of problem areas.
- II. The present FALN terrorist campaign is more cautious and calculating than it was last year, and there are signs of better planning.
 - A. The developing pattern appears to be to concentrate on major operations.
 - B. What the FALN allegedly seeks from the Leoni government is an amnesty for political prisoners as well as the political rehabilitation of the Communist Party and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left.

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1. The Leoni government recently released 250 prisoners, none of them high-level leftist leaders. This action has had no visible moderating effect on the FALN.

III. Cuba can be expected to continue to give considerable propaganda support, some training, and probably some financial aid to the FALN.

- A. Clandestine reports have indicated that in recent meetings with FALN leaders, Cuban leaders probably have underscored the importance of intensifying revolutionary activities.

IV. Criticisms of Venezuela's Central University (UCV) contained in a study done by the Library of Congress for a subcommittee of the US Senate Judiciary Committee has sparked anti-US protests and demonstrations by Communist and other leftist elements in the university.

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